St. Simon the Apostle

Feast Day, October 28

The Patron Saint of Curriers, Sawyers, and Tanners

Saint Simon the Apostle, often called "the Zealot," was one of the 12 canonical apostles, but little is known about him. He may be one of the most obscure of the group, mentioned only in lists of the apostles.

St. Simon the Apostle is often called "the Zealot." Zealots were militant Jews who agitated for the violent overthrow of Roman occupation in Israel. However, this movement did not actually exist until decades after the events of the Gospels, so Simon likely wasn't militant by any measure.

To rectify this misunderstanding, Simon's name is often also translated as "the Canaanite." Alternatively, he may be called, "Simon of Jerusalem." However, he is still better known as "the Zealot."

What we know of St. Simon is the product of tradition. One story claims he was the second bishop of Jerusalem. He is commonly associated with St. Jude and is believed to have traveled with him to evangelize Persia, Armenia, and Lebanon. Some Catholic scholars believe Simon was Jesus' half-brother (Mark 6:3), but more conclude he was morelikely the brother of James, another disciple.

The location of St. Simon's death is also uncertain, although there are several claims. One theory is that Simon was crucified in Roman Britain. Another says he was martyred in Iberia or died peacefully at Edessa, which is now in southern Turkey, near Syria. The most common claim is that he was sawed in half in Persia. Whatever his fate was, it is likely St. Simon was martyred since this was the typical fate of most evangelizers in the first two

ST. SIMON THE APOSTLE IN THE BIBLE

Matthew 10:2-4

Mark 3:16-19

Luke 6:14-16

Acts 1:1-13

Mark 6:3

centuries.

St. Simon shares a feast day with St. Jude, on October 28. He is commonly depicted with a saw, the instrument of his martyrdom. He is the patron saint of curriers, sawyersand tanners.

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